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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9305  
INFO RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 0852

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SIPDIS

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JERUSALEM FOR PAO MSCHWEITZER-BLUHM & ICD ADANIELS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KPAL](#) [KPLS](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#)  
SUBJECT: ISRAELI POLLSTER PROVIDES INTERESTING DATA

¶1. During a November 20 meeting with the PAO, pollster Jacob Shamir of Hebrew University provided some interesting data:

- Only 25% of Israelis support reoccupying Gaza. 41% support ad hoc operations in Gaza and 27% support using diplomatic means.
- When Israelis are asked about Israeli conventional wisdom on talking with Hamas, a large majority (no figure provided) believe that other Israelis are against it. When questioned how they feel personally about talking to Hamas, 56% are in favor.
- An overwhelming majority (no figure provided) of Israelis support negotiating with Hamas over Gilad Shalit's release.
- 25% of Israelis support returning the Golan Heights to Syria
- A large number of Israelis and Palestinians (no figure provided) support the Clinton parameters for a peace agreement.

¶2. The conversation took place the same day that Israeli newspapers were carrying front page stories about Netanyahu's large lead in the polls. Shamir felt that the lead will not hold because the campaign has not really begun and because Israelis are likely to blame the financial reforms that Netanyahu implemented during his previous time as Prime Minister for the growing Israeli financial crisis.

¶3. Comment: Israel is a heavily polled society but Shamir always offers new ways of looking at the data. He is also the only Israeli pollster working with a partner on the West Bank. They are currently polling on views of the new administration and how it should approach the peace process. Shamir has offered to share that data when it becomes available. MORENO